

St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Mission, Rectory
806 13th Street
Fourth Ward Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5856-C

HABS
PA
7 ALTO,
74-C-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ST. LUKE'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL MISSION, RECTORY

HABS
PA.
7-ALTO.
79-C-
HABS No. PA-5856-C

Location: 806 13th Street

Date of Erection: 1858

Description: This two-story brick house has a side-gable roof and a three-bay front. The brick-bearing walls are faced with brick laid in a common bond, and they appear to have been sandblasted. Although the sash has been altered, the windows have molded cornices that are probably original. The door surround is pilastered, pedimented, and is probably not original.

History: The church history states that this building was constructed in 1858, making it one of the earliest surviving brick buildings in Altoona. This was the first rectory built by the St. Luke's Episcopal Church congregation, which was founded in 1856. According to an 1883 article, the rectory served as a stop on the underground railroad, and the Rev. Robert W. Oliver concealed John Brown in the room over the study for several weeks.

Sources: "St. Luke's Episcopal Church." "The Heart of the Alleghenies."

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. Overviews of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and the fourth ward neighborhood (HABS No. PA-5786) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kim Hoagland, project supervisor and editor, in the summer of 1989. Hoagland's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.